

## OFFICIAL COPY

Fresno, California

June 7, 2006

The City Council met in special session at the hour of 6:00 p.m. at Fresno High School, 1839 N. Echo, on the day above written, for continued consideration of the FY 2007 City of Fresno Budget.

Present were Council members Boyajian, Calhoun, Dages, Perea, Sterling, Westerlund and President Duncan, City Manager Souza, City Attorney Sanchez, City Clerk Klisch, Assistant City Clerk Salazar, Budget Manager Smith, and necessary staff.

Councilmember Westerlund led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Boyajian welcomed everyone to the Fresno High stating it was a great high school and he was happy to represent District 1 and Fresno High. President Duncan recognized and commended Councilmember Boyajian for his passion for his district. Councilmember Boyajian thanked public works staff for all their work and assistance provided him and for helping to grow neighborhoods.

President Duncan clarified issues relative to the budget hearing and motion processes.

**(6:00 P.M.) HEARING ON THE FY 2007 CITY OF FRESNO BUDGET****PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Upon question of Councilmember Westerlund, President Duncan stated Council could ask questions on any department or issue they feel is appropriate including the Capital Improvement Plan, and upon Council consensus the Capital Improvement Plan was added to the list for separate discussion.

Public Works Director Healey gave a PowerPoint presentation on his budget which included a mission statement, department overview, department resources, department uses, general fund uses, capital projects, significant items, and FY 07 budget highlights.

Joel Hatcher, 2146 E. Lexington, presented questions relative to the Traffic Operation Center, which questions were subsequently submitted to staff and later responded to.

Design Services Manager Andersen, Mr. Healey and Traffic Engineering Manager Mozier responded to questions/comments of Councilmember Dages relative to No Neighborhood Left Behind (NNLB) and when his district's first year project would be completed, if any money was included in the budget or in the NNLB program for the Huntington Avenue sewer line, need to address that sewer issue before installing curbs and gutters, reserving a motion to allocate \$80,000 for the Huntington sanitary sewer project until it can be determined if public utilities can arrange some financing, status of the Peach Avenue project and what the \$5 million was for, the \$1.3 million for Kings Canyon and if relinquishment funds were from 180 east, traffic signals and his desire for installation to be project specific on developments and request to add that matter to the direction list for later discussion, parking and the parking division deficit, and his desire to change the downtown parking structure, with Councilmember Dages noting staff was currently gathering information for him on that issue.

**MOTION - Dages/Perea** - Change the downtown parking structure to have metered and garage parking in effect Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with evenings, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays free, and \*\* later added meters/garages to be fully operational during Grizzlies baseball games.

Councilmember Dages stated he wanted \$100,000 set aside in the budget for a campaign to market downtown and its free parking, spoke to the issue of unpaid parking citations, and clarified the motion upon the request of President Dages \*\* and added the part relative to Grizzlies' games. City Manager Souza stated staff would provide a detailed analysis of the proposed motion including net costs and net savings. Councilmember Dages continued with Mr. Healey responding to additional questions relative to the \$7.6 million for Charges for Services, the \$1.25 million for Miscellaneous Revenue, the stadium payment/debt service, Professional Services & Consulting for \$2 million and who the consultant was, and concern with the landscaping on Huntington Boulevard and need to address the never ending problem as landscaping is turning brown again.

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Mr. Healey responded to questions of Councilmember Sterling relative to the video policing infrastructure project including if CDBG funds were utilized, if CDBG funding was included in this budget, and if CDBG funds were utilized in the past, if police cameras in the Traffic Operation Center (TOC) are used for surveillance, the traffic signal synchronization project and locations, the audible/verbal traffic signals, what the collection efforts were for old parking citations, traffic controller positions **(2 - 0)**, if the department had recruitment and retention issues/problems, number of full-time Local Conservation Corps employees that are contracted for, the substantial cut in median island landscaping in the Fresno High and Edison High school areas, and tree trimming and the proposal to go from 20 years to 15 years, with Mr. Healey, Mr. Mozier, Budget Manager Smith and EOC Executive Director Palomino responding throughout

**MOTION** - **Sterling/Perea** - Change the tree trimming cycle from 20 years *to 12 years* instead of the proposed 20 years to 15 years.

Councilmember Sterling continued and presented questions relative NNLB and who would be doing the work in District 3, request for a list of projects and who will be doing the work, request that city crews do the work in her district, and the funding for the Hope VI project and what it will be used for, with Mr. Andersen, Mr. Healey and Ms. Smith responding.

President Duncan congratulated Councilmember Sterling on her re-election victory.

Councilmember Calhoun presented questions relative to the TOC including staffing levels, what the status was, what the police department's role was in the center since the cameras are set up for reasons other than apprehending "bad guys", the regional approach and when the MOU will come forward, and if city transit busses were being monitored.

At this point Mr. Healey responded to the list of questions submitted earlier by Mr. Hatcher on the TOC and funding.

Councilmember Calhoun continued and presented questions/comments on the challenges of resurfacing existing streets, if the resurfacing cycles would be getting worse or staying the same, impact fees, if staff had a good handle on median islands, if staff was replanting dead trees along Blackstone Avenue to Nees, and District 2's priority issue of resurfacing Golden State from Herndon to Barstow Avenue and his concern with not receiving information on road work dates.

**MOTION** - **Calhoun/Sterling** - Appropriate \$250,000 for the re-paving of Golden State Boulevard from Herndon to Barstow Avenues.

Ms. Smith questioned if Councilmember Calhoun had a funding source identified with Councilmember Calhoun stating Mr. Healey indicated he had money in his budget and he would find it.

Councilmember Boyajian again thanked staff for all they've done for him and for the work conducted with the available resources and elaborated, and presented questions relative to the NNLB pave-off and where the report was on the results, when Council would be receiving the report, who prepared the report, who the evaluation committee was, what task the committee was given, who chose committee members, the importance of the Hope VI project for affordable housing and economic development, concern with \$350,000 being allocated for Hope VI when it is worth \$40 million, the project being in jeopardy because fees were raised in that area, the new \$12 million federal grant and where those funds will go, need to get infrastructure done so the project is not lost, **(3 - 0)**, Hope VI and the road to the Roeding Industrial Park being priorities and important for affordable housing and jobs in the future, if those project could be included in the \$12 million grant, and the intent of CDBG money and if those funds would go towards streets and sidewalks, with Assistant City Manager Ruiz, Mr. Healey and Streets Manager Adams responding throughout.

**MOTION** - **Boyajian/Sterling** - Make the Hope VI Project and the road to the Roeding Industrial Park priorities and allocate funding to assure they are completed.

Councilmember Boyajian continued and presented questions relative to whether the police department would use the TOC to scrutinize surveillance in addition to traffic, the landscaping watering policy and what the basic issue/problem was, signalization and traffic studies, and if there was a shortage of engineering staff, with Mr. Healey, staff member Sweeney and Mr. Mozier responding throughout.

Councilmember Westerlund presented questions relative to street paving/slurry seal plans and what was done last year, reason for the requested increase in parking enforcement staff, abandoned vehicles, department vacancies, total number of employees in the department, how the American Public Works Associates accreditation would benefit the City, and CFD #2 fees, revenues and expenditures, with Mr. Healey, Parking Manager Estabrooke and Assistant Public Works Director Kirn responding throughout.

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Acting President Perea requested a tray memo on buildings that will be built in the next 5-10 years under the green building ordinance.

Upon question of President Duncan Mr. Souza clarified issues relative to MRZ motion including shortages and if there was flexibility to boost funding in another area, and when written information/details on the MRZ would be provided to the Mayor's Economic Development Task Force.

**WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION #7** - President Duncan withdrew his motion to eliminate \$500,000 for MRZ sales tax rebates and allocate \$500,000 for fee reductions.

**WITHDRAWAL OF 2<sup>nd</sup> ON MOTION #3** - President Duncan withdrew his second to the motion to place the \$1 million for the MRZ in contingency.

Upon call, Motion #3 died due to the lack of a second.

President Duncan commended Mr. Healey and his staff stating they were an outstanding group of people and specifically commended Mr. Kirn and Carol Doran and strongly suggested the departments that work with Council on a regular basis to consider a Carol Doran-type position stating it made communication with constituents so much easier and also saved a lot of management time, and presented questions relative to whether there was a contingency plan in case Measure C does not pass/is not extended, parking revenues and why a decrease was being projected, request for a detailed breakdown on the parking fund, and what the proposed \$50,000 for accreditation would be used for. Relative to the accreditation and its purpose President Duncan stated "good customer service" is shown to taxpayers by providing good customer service, stated he did not know if the City had the luxury this year of spending \$50,000 to "pat ourselves on the back", stated there were other priority needs and public works staff was a great group of people and good things were heard from the public and added he would rather see staff spend time finding creative ways to fund curb cuts, and spoke to Councilmember Calhoun's motion to allocate funds to repave Golden State.

**MOTION - Duncan/Westerlund** - Reallocate the \$50,000 proposed for American Public Works Association Accreditation to the Golden State Boulevard, Herndon to Barstow repaving project.

Mr. Souza spoke to the importance of the accreditation and how it would help find out what it would take/what needs to change to be the best of the best and further elaborated, with President Duncan stating that was understood but he felt taxpayers were more concerned about potholes.

President Duncan continued and presented questions and comments relative to whether the RBP was in a CDBG area, the importance of the frontage road to the RBP and the consultant study indicating it was critical for the park to get to the next level and be functional, the \$2million shortage to finish the park, and his motion made yesterday to defund the Sports Town project and his belief that there was no better use of that \$2 million than the RBP to finish the section and generate desperately needed jobs.

**MOTION - Duncan/Boyajian** - Reallocate \$2 million of Section 108/CDBG funds for the Sports Town project to the Roeding Business Park.

Mr. Souza stated he would get information to Council on CDBG requirements for collateralization and explained **(4 - 0)**.

President Duncan spoke to comments made earlier on traffic signals and making them project specific, cautioned a change in that direction stating that used to be done within the UGM program but was changed for the better and explained, and added the change resulted in quite a dent in the priority list and requested Council keep that in mind.

Councilmember Boyajian presented questions relative to funding for the Bankside Trail Project and after review Mr. Mozier clarified authorization to move forward on the project was included in the budget but for some reason it was shown as zero, and advised a correction needed to be made to allocate the \$573,00 in FY 2007. Mr. Mozier responded to additional questions relative to the lighting at Fresno High School and if a study would be conducted to mitigate the parking fund deficit.

**MOTION - Boyajian/Westerlund** - Include in FY 2007 the \$573,000 for the Bankside Trail Project shown for FY 2008.

**MOTION** - **Boyajian/Westerlund** - Increase the Council infrastructure budgets by \$100,000 for a total amount of \$150,000.

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Mr. Healey responded to questions of Councilmember Westerlund relative to street developer impact fees and when that issue would be brought to Council. Councilmember Westerlund stated he appreciated the work of parking staff but he had a concern with increasing the level from two to eight and he wanted to first see how an increase to five would work out.

**MOTION** - **Westerlund/Boyajian** - Reduce the FTE staffing for parking from the proposed eight positions to five positions.

Upon question of Councilmember Calhoun, Mr. Souza clarified the informational white papers went out to Council offices this date.

The budget hearing was continued to Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at Hoover High School.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before the City Council, the hour of 8:37 p.m. having arrived and hearing no objections, President Duncan declared the meeting adjourned to 6/8/06, at 6:00 p.m.

**APPROVED** on the \_\_\_\_13th\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ June \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

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ATTEST:\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
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Jerry Duncan, Council President

Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk

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